Would the Minister be kind enough to tell us this? One, is he aware of the urgency of the problem of deforestation? Two, what are the schemes that are continuing, quite apart from this Green India Programme?

SHRI S. REGUPATHY: Sir, this six million hectares of degraded forest land of the country to be taken up in ten years will be done through the CAMPA Programme. It is another project. Through CAMPA only, we have undertaken it. The Green India Programme is part of CAMPA.

Under CAMPA, we have undertaken it and we will take six million hectares of degraded land of the country, in the next ten years, at an estimated cost of Rs. one lakh for three hectares. In the first phase, three million hectares of degraded forest land will be taken up for afforestation from the year 2008. The previous scheme is in no way connected with it. It is a new Scheme announced by the hon. Prime Minister.

Under the Green India Programme, we are going to take another six million hectares of degraded forest land; apart from though J.F.M.C.S.

Policy for Allocation of Spectrum

*††209. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has evolved a transparent and equitable policy for allocation of spectrum, as announced by the Prime Minister at the inauguration of the 'India Telecom-2007', on December 12, 2007;

(b) the details thereof indicating the precise nature and substance of the controversy; and

(c) the steps taken in the light of such a policy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) The Government has revised the subscriber based criteria for allotment of additional spectrum with the growth of services/subscriber base. The revised criteria ensure improved spectrum utilization. Allotment of spectrum is done in accordance with the said criteria subject to availability.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I have come to now from different newspapers and have got information that the Ministry of Communications and IT, and TRAI have a lot of differences on this issues. What are these differences? In the process, is it also true that the Association representing the CDMA and the GSM operators have differing views over the issues? How does the Government propose to reconcile these interests with the overall interest of the consumers? Even I, as consumer, do not know which is the best service. So many confusions are there. How does the Government want to do it?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir, I do not think that there is any confusion at all in this regard. Being a regulator, between TRAI and the Government, there is no dispute at all. Whatever be the recommendations made by TRAI, they have been fully accepted by the Government so far as the allotment of additional spectrum is concerned. TRAI's recommendation was

††The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

questioned and challenged by the Cellular Operators' Association-they are private operators-on the basis that it was not arrived at on a scientific basis. Having received such a complaint, the matter was referred to the TEC (Telecom Engineering Centre), which is the apex body available in the Ministry, which is competent to decide what is the subscriber-based criteria. Till the TEC's report came, TRAI's report was kept in abeyance. Fortunately or unfortunately, the TEC's report came and, again, it was not accepted by the Cellular Operator's Association. The Association does not accept TRAI's recommendation as well as the TEC's recommendation. TRAI's recommendation is the minimum and the TEC's recommendation is the maximum.

As the hon. Member put it, it appears that in the newspapers there are a lot of cunfusions; I want to put an end to it. I accepted, the Ministry accepted TRAI's recommendations and, accordingly, Spectrum is allotted.

So far as allotment is concerned, there is no dispute between the regulator and the Government. Of course, the matter is pending before the court.

The second thing is that there are differences of opinion between the two operators—the CDMA technology and the GSM technology. There is a war going on between the GSM and the CDMA, and the matter is pending before the TDSAT. The matter is *sub judice.*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Since Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad is not here and the Minister has said that it comes under that, so if he can reply to that question plus I want to know whether the Government proposes to introduce convertibility and portability of phone numbers, as reported in different media, thereby retaining the same number, irrespective of the service provider. If that is so, when is it going to be introduced?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir the concept of 'number portability' has been accepted and declared, in principle, by the Government. The modalities and the feasibility must be worked out with TRAI. The moment I accepted the 'number portability' concept, in principle, that has been referred to TRAI; TRAI is looking into it. As soon as the report comes, the Government will take all steps to implement it.

आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की आपूर्ति

*210. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आस्ट्रेलिया ने भारत को यूरेनियम सप्लाई बन्द करने के संकेत दिए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

(क) भारत को आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की कोई सप्लाई प्राप्त नहीं हो रही है और इसलिए आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की सप्लाई बन्द होने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ख) तथा (ग) उपर्युक्त के मद्दे नज़र यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।